

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-10

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USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 /086 W
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R 191155Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6010

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS GABORONE 1587

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC, SA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KHAMA DISCUSSES SOUTH AFRICA AT PARLIAMENT
OPENING

1. ON NOVEMBER 18 PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT. FULL TEXT IS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND SELECTED ADDRESSES. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TEXT OF THE SPEECH WHICH DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA IN PARTICULAR.

2. QUOTE: IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MY NEW GOVERNMENT WILL, AS THE ONES BEFORE IT, ENDEAVOUR AT ALL TIMES TO GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS, THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP OF NATIONS. WE ARE AS CONVINCED AS EVER OF THE VALUE OF THESE ORGANISATIONS, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO HONOUR ALL THE OBLIGATIONS ARISING OUT OF OUR MEMBERSHIP OF THEM.

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EM COMING NEARER HOME, THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST RECENTLY REGARDING THE DEVELOPING DETANTE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA. SAND INDEPENDENT AFCICA. MY GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE NEW SITUATION WHICH APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AS I HAVE SAID SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST, BOTSWANA, LIKE THE REST OF INDEPENDENT AFRICA, WOULD PREFER TO SETTLE THE PROBLEMS OF WHITE-RULED SOUTHERN AFRICA BY PEACEFUL MEANS RATHER THAN THROUGH WARFARE. BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE CLEAR THAT BEFORE THERE CAN BE ANY PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THIS REGION OF AFRICA, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WHITE-RULED STATES OF THE REGION SHOULD FIRST DEMONSTRATE POSITIVELY A WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE THEIR RACIAL POLICIES. WITHOUT SUCH A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE, VIOLENCE WILL REMAIN THE ONLY WAY TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN WHITE-RULED SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS IS THE MESSAGE WHICH WE PUT OUT TO THE WORLD IN THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO.

4. NOW, AT LAST, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT ONLY READY TO BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF, BUT IS PREPARED TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT SIMILAR CHANGES IN RHODESIA. THIS, INDEED, AS PRESIDENT KAUNDA RECENTLY OBSERVED, IS THE VOICE OF REASON FOR WHICH WE HAVE LONG BEEN WAITING. GIVEN THIS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF MR. VORSTER'S GOVERNMENT, THERE IS EVERY HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE RESOLVED WITHOUT FURTHER BLOODSHED. THIS, IN TURN, WILL OPEN UP UNLIMITED PROSPECTS OF STABILITY, CO-OPERATION, AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOR THESE REASONS, I WELCOME THE RECENT INDICATIONS OF

POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THIS PART OF AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT IS PERHAPS STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE SINCERITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER. WE ARE AWARE, FOR INSTANCE, OF CERTAIN UTTERANCES ON THE PART OF SOME SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE RULING PARTY IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH SEEM TO CONTRADICT MR. VORSTER'S RECENT SPEECHES.

5. FOR ITS PART, MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ASSISTING IN THE PEACEFUL TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION. WE CANNOT STAND BY AND WATCH EVENTS AROUND US WHICH SO PROFOUNDLY AFFECT OUR OWN FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE ARE DETERMINED TO PLAY OUR FULL PART IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT

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A NEW SOTHERN AFRICA. END QUOTE.
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